

# The God Who Sees Us

## September 14, 2025



### **Vision Statement:**

We Are a Nurturing, Beloved Community.  
We Are Growing Authentic Christian Faith.  
We Are Living Christ-Inspired Action.

**FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

September 14, 2025

10:00 am

*The Eternal is near to the brokenhearted  
and saves the crushed in spirit.*

*Psalm 34:8*

**PRELUDE**

Emilie Buhl

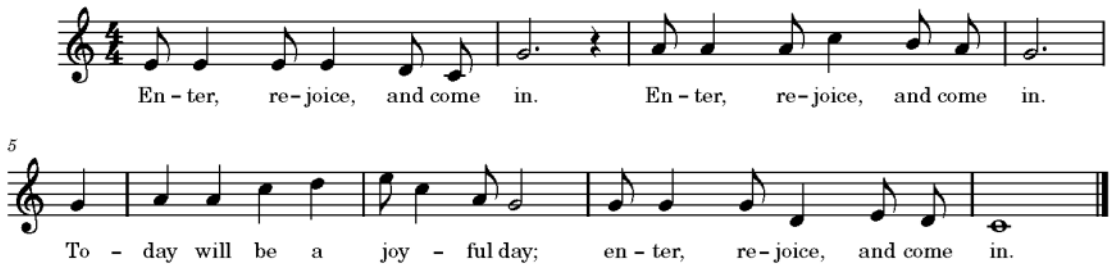
**RINGING THE BELL**

**WE ARE A NURTURING, BELOVED COMMUNITY**

**WELCOME SONG #73**

*“Enter, Rejoice, Come In”  
sing twice*

ENTER, REJOICE



by Louise Ruspini © 1992 Louise Ruspini; Harmonization © 1993 The Pilgrim Press.  
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**WELCOME**

Rev. Kelsey Beebe

*We love children in worship—their noises and wiggles are welcome, too. There are pillows and a coloring, book, and play area in the front and in the corner near the windows. Younger kids may enjoy the Narthex play area. Their movements back and forth are a joy for us as they participate fully.*

**THE STORY**

Rev. Kelsey Beebe

**TIME WITH CHILDREN**

Maya McEachern

*After Time with Children, children may go with Maya to church school in the social hall or remain in the sanctuary as they choose.*

*\*Rise in body or spirit*



1 Hope of A - bra - ham and Sa - rah, friend of  
 2 Root us in our own tra - di - tions, faith our  
 3 Hope of those who came be - fore us, sov'-reign



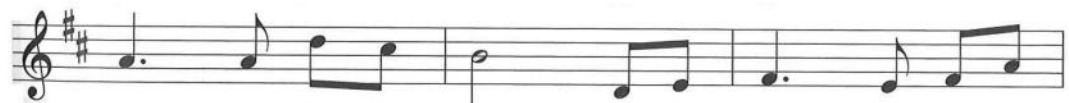
Ha - gar, God of Ruth, you de - sire that ev - 'ry  
 fore - bears hand - ed down. Grow us in your grace and  
 God whom we a - dore, form in us your new cre -



peo - ple wor - ship you in spir - it, truth.  
 knowl - edge; plant our feet on sol - id ground.  
 a - tion free of vio - lence, hate, and war.



Meet us in our sa - cred plac - es, mosque and  
 Cul - ti - vate the seeds of shar - ing in this  
 So may star, and cross, and cres - cent, each a



syn - a - gogue and church. Show us paths of un - der -  
 world of man - y creeds. Keep us op - en, wise in  
 sign of life made new, point us toward your love and



stand - ing; bless us in our com - mon search.  
 learn - ing, bear - ing fruit in lov - ing deeds.  
 jus - tice, earth at peace and one in you.

**COMMUNITY PRAYER**

SAB

Diane Cooper-Schick

One Voice: Holy One, there are times when all we can see are our own personal worlds, where the pain is true and big and unrelenting.

**All Voices: Every moment is too heavy, every burden is too large, every step is too exhausting.**

One Voice: There are times when all we can see is the work ahead of us, when we've already done so much to get here.

**All Voices: Each tragedy is too heartbreaking, each policy is too cruel, each learning is too small.**

One Voice: When all we can see are these, O God, remind us that you see more.

**All Voices: You see our grief, you see our effort, you see us.**

One Voice: You see us, Holy One. And isn't that amazing.

**All Voices: May we bask in your Divine gaze. May we soak in your knowing us.**

One Voice: And may we find renewal in your eternal love.

**All Voices: Amen.**

**SUNG INVITATION TO PRAYER #383 "Spirit of the Living God"**

IVERSON

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me; Spir - it of the

6 liv-ing God, fall a-fresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me\_

13 Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me.

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## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Kelsey Beebe

### The Prayer of Jesus

*We invite you to use the language for God that is most comfortable for you:*

*"Our Creator," "Our Father" or "Our Mother."*

#### Our Creator

who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.

#### Thy kingdom come,

thy will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven.

#### Give us this day our daily bread,

and forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors.

#### And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil,

#### For thine is the kingdom,

and the power,

and the glory,

forever and ever. *Amen.*

*If you have a prayer request you'd like to share confidentially with our pastors,  
have added to the confidential prayer list, or spoken aloud in worship,  
go to [www.fccb.net/contact-us/](http://www.fccb.net/contact-us/) to send a message or call the church to talk with a pastor.*

## WE ARE GROWING AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN FAITH.

### A READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Genesis 16:1-16

Diane Cooper-Schick

*New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition*

### SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Diane Cooper-Schick

One: For the Word of God in scripture,  
for the Word of God among us,  
for the Word of God within us:

All: **Thanks be to God.**

### SERMON

"You Are Not Invisible"

Rev. Kelsey Beebe

### HYMN #451 (black hymnal)

"Be Now My Vision"  
verses 1-3

SLANE

## WE ARE LIVING CHRIST-INSPIRED ACTION.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS & OFFERING

Diane Cooper-Schick

*You may make an offering either in the plates or online.*

*Your generosity allows the work of this place nurture beloved community,  
grow authentic Christian faith, and live Christ-inspired action. Thank you!*

*There are several ways to give: 1) Give at our website, <https://fccb.net/giving/>.*

*2) Mail checks to First Congregational Church, 2401 Cornwall Avenue, Bellingham, WA 98225.*

*3) Use the Breeze app. Download from your app store, set up an account, and give!*

*4) Give by text. Text a dollar amount to (360) 205-1297, and set up your account.*

*5) Scan the QR code below or on the back cover of the bulletin.*



### MUSICAL OFFERING

Emilie Buhl

### \*HYMN

“The God of Sarah Praise”

LEONI

*see opposite page*

### \*BENEDICTION & PASSING THE PEACE

Rev. Kelsey Beebe

### POSTLUDE

Emilie Buhl

# THE GOD OF SARAH PRAISE

David Bjorlin, b.1984

LEONI  
from the *Yigdal*

1. The God of Sa - rah praise, the  
2. The God of A - br'ham praise, the  
3. The God of Ha - gar praise, the

God of dreams long dead, who brings forth un - ex -  
God of all who roam, who guides us in - to  
God of those op - pressed, who sees the lost and

pect - ed life, dis - arm - ing dread. Though  
for - eign lands and makes our home. When  
o - ver - looked and calls them blessed. Though

grief lasts through the night, joy ris - es with the  
dark - ness shrouds our path, the stars, as pledg - es,  
wan - der - ing a - lone through des - erts of de -

sun; God leaves us laugh - ing in sur - prise at  
shine; God's cov - e - nant will be ful - filled by  
spair, God leads us to a well of hope and

death un - done.  
love's de - sign.  
meets us there.

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**Open and Affirming (ONA):** As an Open and Affirming congregation believing in a loving God, all people are welcome in this church without regard to gender, race, ethnicity, economic or social status, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

**We Try To Use Language** which will help people feel included in our worship. Since not everyone is comfortable with the same language, we invite you to amend the words of the service as we sing and pray if they do not adequately express your faith. We invite you to assist us in creating new expressions of our common faith and life together.

**Technical Support:** If you need help streaming our worship services or connecting in other ways, please let us know.

### **APPOINTMENTS WITH PASTORAL STAFF**

Our pastor is available by appointment virtually or in person. Contact her by email or call the pastoral care line, 360-733-4255.

Sharon     **sharon@fccb.net**

Our Chaplain is also available at  
**chaplain@fccb.net.**

Or you can email our Office Manager  
Cydne at **office@fccb.net**  
and she'll pass your message on.

### **FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH United Church of Christ**

*An Open & Affirming Congregation*

2401 Cornwall Avenue, Bellingham, WA 98225

Church Office: 360-734-3720

**24/7 Emergency Pastoral Care: 360-733-4255**

office@fccb.net • www.fccb.net

Facebook: facebook.com/fccbucc

*Office Hours:*

*9:30 am-4:30 pm, M-Th. 10:00 am-2:00 pm, F.*

**PASTOR: Sharon Benton, she/her**

**DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY LIFE:**

**Scott Ward, he/him** (scott@fccb.net)

**CHAPLAIN: Charlene Epp, she/her**

**ORGANIST: Judy Widrig, she/her**

**INTERIM MUSIC COORDINATOR:**

**Dallas Geil, he/him** (music@fccb.net)

**CHURCH SCHOOL/YOUTH COORDINATOR**

**Maya McEachern**

**WORSHIP MEDIA COORDINATOR**

**Moxxy Rogers, she/her**

**OFFICE MANAGER: Cydne Cochran, she/her**

**CUSTODIAN/MAINTENANCE:**

**Kurt Aagard, he/him**

**BOOKKEEPER: Eric Bowen, he/him**

**MODERATOR: Diane Cooper-Schick, she/her**

**VICE MODERATOR: Jordan Sandoval**

**CLERK: Leigh Hjelmseth**

**TREASURER: Craig Jennings**

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